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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
**Raman Chandrasekar, et al.** Confirmation No.: **6976**  
Application No.: **09/682,040** Group Art Unit: **2161**  
Filing Date: **July 12, 2001** Examiner: **Al Hashemi, Sana A**  
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR QUERY REFINEMENT TO ENABLE  
IMPROVED SEARCHING BASED ON IDENTIFYING AND UTILIZING  
POPULAR CONCEPTS RELOCATED TO USER'S QUERIES**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

1. (currently amended) A method implemented at least in part by a computer for refining a user query, the method comprising:

grouping a plurality of terms into a search concept, the search concept being a category that represents a clustering of the terms;

examining a query log to determine to a number of times that each of the terms appears within queries stored in the query log;

calculating a relative popularity for the search concept by adding the number of times that each of the terms appears within the queries stored in the query log, whereby the relative popularity is calculated relative to at least one other search concept in a list of search concepts;

receiving a query from a user; and

mapping the user query to the search concept.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating, upon the user's request, a preferred query associated with the search concept to provide improved search results.